

# Trump and 'Morning Joe' trade insults on Twitter

JULY 2, 2017, 9:33 A.M.

Here's our look at the Trump administration and the rest of Washington

- President [Trump tweets new attack](#) on "Morning Joe," which quickly fires back
- White House defends [Trump's coarse tweets](#), saying he "fights fire with fire"
- [Trump will meet Russia's president](#) in Germany. But will they discuss Russian meddling in the election?
- White House will fill FCC with [crucial vote on net neutrality rules](#)
- Justice Neil M. Gorsuch is pushing the Supreme Court to the right on [guns, gays and religion](#)

All updates



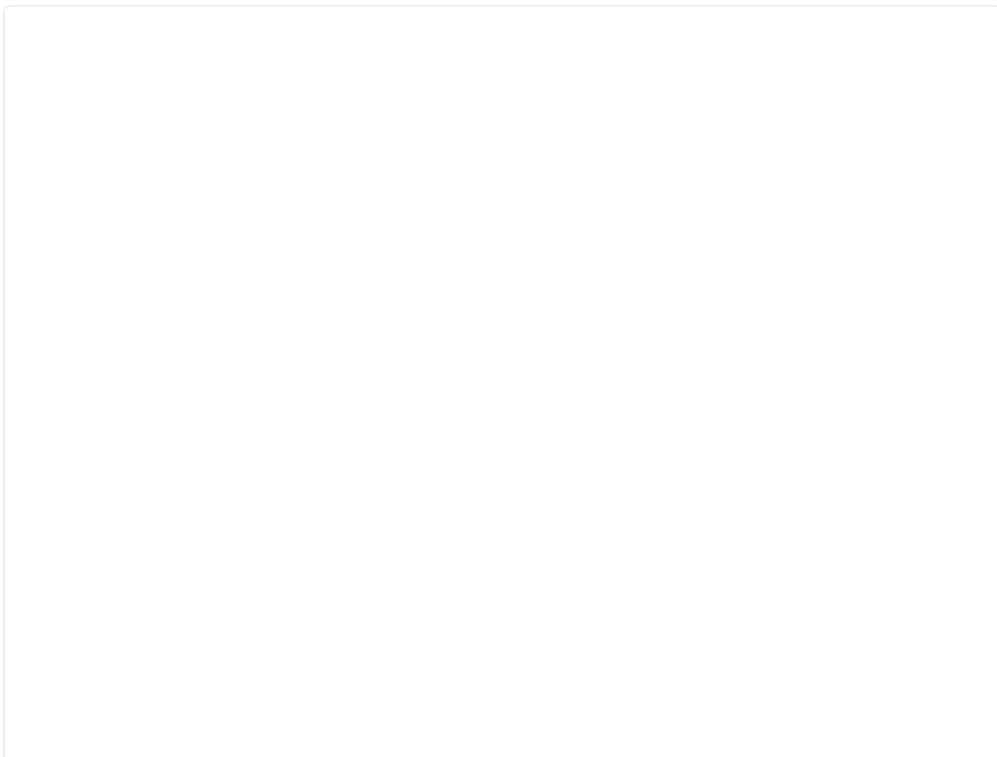
[Congress](#) [White House](#)

JUNE 1, 2017, 3:35 P.M.

## Trump's decision to withdraw from Paris climate change accord splits Congress — and serves up a campaign issue



Lisa Mascaró





**Rep. Alex Mooney**  
@RepAlexMooney

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Proud to be sitting in the front row of the Rose Garden in support of @POTUS's announcement on the #ParisAccord that will save WV jobs.

4:08 PM - Jun 1, 2017

283

837

3,931

Energy issues often create rare bipartisan alliances on Capitol Hill, but reaction to [President Trump's decision Thursday](#) to withdraw from the Paris climate change accord broke swiftly along partisan lines and ensured campaign battles to come.

Republicans are gambling that sticking with Trump will appeal to voters who hope for a [resurgence of coal and oil industry jobs](#), as well as the GOP's traditional deep-pocketed allies, including the billionaire Koch brothers' network, who have railed against former President Obama's signature environmental accomplishment.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky applauded Trump "for dealing yet another significant blow to the Obama administration's assault on domestic energy production and jobs."

Coal-state lawmakers, including Rep. Alex Mooney (R-W.Va.), were thrilled to attend the White House announcement at the Rose Garden.

"President Trump is right to withdraw from this bad deal," said Nathan Nascimento, a vice president at Freedom Partners, a Koch-backed pro-business group.

But [Democrats lambasted the withdrawal](#) as a retreat from the world stage that will have reverberations in economic and foreign policy beyond the immediate climate

change debate.

Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland, the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, called the decision a "shocking reversal of American global leadership and transparently political, the clearest sign yet he will do whatever he can to dismantle President Obama's legacy purely for the sake of it."

Democrats often relied on Trump's own bombastic vocabulary to criticize his move.

"Sad, very sad," said. Rep. John Garamendi (D-Walnut Grove), a former deputy secretary of the Interior.

Since the Obama administration negotiated the global accord, some have suggested it should have been handled as a treaty and submitted to the Senate for ratification.

Voting to stop the deal could have helped Republicans, who have the majority in Congress, score a political win at a time when they have racked up few major accomplishments, while also pressuring Democrats in red states where Trump remains popular.

But the White House decided against that approach, and the strategy might not have produced such clear results.

One red-state Democrat, Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, dismissed Trump's decision as "reckless." Wind energy is a rapidly growing industry alongside oil and gas development in her state.

"The United States can't remain an energy leader if we aren't even at the negotiating table," Heitkamp said. "No agreement is perfect.... But abandoning this agreement altogether is a reckless decision that forfeits an opportunity to guarantee a viable future for North Dakota coal, oil and natural gas on the global level."

And several Republicans, including Rep. Carlos Curbelo, who represents a swing district in south Florida, and Sen. Susan Collins, the centrist from Maine, opposed Trump's decision.

"Climate change requires a global approach," Collins said. "I'm disappointed."

One certain outcome is that the decision will be debated into the next election, especially as sought-after younger voters take more interest in the climate change issue.

"We are appalled and disappointed, but we are not deterred," said Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii.). "Entering a formal withdrawal would take nearly four years to

complete which means climate change is on the ballot for every election until we reverse this immoral action."

**Brian Schatz**

@brianschatz

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Dear Trump administration: Please stop doing insane things.

Signed, Future Generations.

5:17 PM - Jun 1, 2017

11

144

455

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JULY 2, 2017, 9:33 A.M.

## Meet some of the governors leading the charge against the Senate healthcare plan

**Kurtis Lee**



Gov. John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), left, and Gov. John Kasich (R-Ohio) participate in a bipartisan news conference to discuss the Senate healthcare bill in Washington. (Mark Wilson / Getty Images)

In today's political climate, it's rare to find bipartisanship. But as [President Trump](#) calls on [Senate](#) Republicans to pass a bill in the [coming weeks](#) that would [overhaul the Affordable Care Act](#), governors from both sides of the aisle are unified in opposition.

The Senate GOP healthcare bill would cut [Medicaid](#) spending by \$772 billion over the next decade, leaving millions of low-income people uninsured in states where Medicaid was expanded under the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare.

The governors from states that took advantage of the Medicaid expansion have worked together in crafting letters, holding teleconferences with reporters and hosting private meetings with members of Congress. Some have called for no repeal, others a more measured approach. Who are they? Here's a look:

[READ MORE >](#)

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JULY 2, 2017, 9:23 A.M.

## Trump's latest tweet in media war is a literal show of mock pugilism



President Trump's tweet on Sunday used an edited version of a years-old promotional video for professional wrestling. It showed him attacking a crudely rendered stand-in for CNN.

President Trump on Sunday circulated a doctored video clip on Twitter that showed him physically attacking a crudely rendered stand-in for CNN, a post that drew rebukes from critics as an incitement to violence, but prompted renewed expressions of support from backers.

In doing so, Trump also ignored pleas to stop tweeting or at least take a more presidential tone -- from lawmakers in his own party -- after he took his war against news media to new heights last week with a coarse post on the appearance and intellect of cable television host Mika Brzezinski. On Saturday he also posted several anti-media messages as Americans began their Fourth of July celebration.

Sunday's tweet, which used an edited version of a years-old promotional video for professional wrestling, showed Trump, clad in a business suit and tie, administering a choreographed beat-down to a figure whose face was obscured by CNN's logo.





CNN, which has been a particular target of the president since the network was forced to retract a story relating to an element of the sprawling investigation into possible collusion with Russia by the Trump campaign, quickly condemned the tweet.

“It is a sad day when the President of the United States encourages violence against reporters,” the network said in statement. It also tweeted a recent assertion by White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders that Trump had never engaged in such incitement.



As is often the case, the president’s surrogates were left scrambling to explain or justify an inflammatory Twitter outburst. Homeland security advisor Thomas Bossert, who was shown the clip while appearing on ABC’s “This Week,” watched it stone-faced and then declared: “No one would perceive that as a threat. I hope they don’t.”

The night before, Trump had used a celebration of veterans at Washington's Kennedy Center to again denounce the news media. The president, who had briefly broken a weekend golf getaway to appear at the rally, pounded away at the theme that he is being treated unfairly.

"The fake media tried to stop us from going to the White House," he told the raucous crowd. "But I'm president, and they're not."

JUNE 30, 2017, 3:44 P.M.

## Increasing number of states reject request for personal information on voters from Trump commission



Colleen Shalby



(Carolyn Kaster / Associated Press)

A growing number of states have rejected a request for personal information about voters from a presidential commission on vote fraud led by Kansas' controversial Secretary of State Kris Kobach.

Kobach, the vice chairman of the commission, sent letters to each state and Washington, D.C., asking for voters' personal information. The request asked for



names, addresses, voting history and the last four digits of voters' Social Security numbers.

The commission was set up to look into voter fraud after President Trump alleged that he lost the popular vote in 2016 only because millions of people voted illegally -- a claim that numerous states' election officials from both parties and outside experts have dismissed as groundless.

As of Friday afternoon, at least 13 states had outright rejected the request from the Presidential Advisory Committee on Election Integrity. Officials in several other states either said they would not supply all the information or needed more information before making a decision.

Some officials did not mince words in their "no's."

"They can go jump in the Gulf of Mexico, and Mississippi is a great State to launch from," Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann wrote in a statement.

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla [said in a statement](#) that strongly criticized Kobach that he would "continue to defend the rights of all eligible voters to cast their ballots free from discrimination, intimidation or unnecessary roadblocks."





## Secretary of State Alex Padilla Responds to Presidential Election Commission Request for Personal Data of California Voters



**CA SOS Vote**  
@CASOSvote

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Secretary Padilla's response to the Election Commission's request for personal data of CA voters:

4:48 PM - Jun 29, 2017

770

5,401

9,278

As a Kansas official, Kobach has been a leading backer of immigration restrictions and of measures to put new requirements on who is allowed to vote. His opponents note that he was fined last week for misleading a federal court in a voting rights case.

Democratic elected officials in several states criticized the commission, itself, not just the information request.

"The president created his election commission based on the false notion that 'voter fraud' is a widespread issue – it is not," Kentucky Secretary of State Allison Grimes wrote.

*Today, my office and Secretaries of State nationwide received from the President's election commission a request for the personal information – including the name, address, social security number, birthdate, political affiliation, and voting history – of every American voter, including the 3.2 million registered Kentucky voters. As the Commonwealth's Secretary of State and chief election official, I do not intend to release Kentuckians' sensitive personal data to the federal government.*

*The president created his election commission based on the false notion that "voter fraud" is a widespread issue – it is not. Indeed, despite bipartisan objections and a lack of authority, the President has repeatedly spread the lie that three to five million illegal votes were cast in the last election. Kentucky will not aid a commission that is at best a waste of taxpayer money and at worst an attempt to legitimize voter suppression efforts across the country.*

**Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes**



**Alison L. Grimes**  
@KySecofState

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"I do not intend to release Kentuckians' sensitive personal data to the fed. gov't." — Sec. Grimes

Statement on Pres. Commission request:

8:48 PM - Jun 29, 2017

194 669 1,685

In an odd contradiction, Kobach said that [Kansas](#), like some other states, will partially reject at least one aspect of the request.

"In Kansas, the Social Security number is not publicly available. ... Every state receives the same letter, but we're not asking for it if it's not publicly available," he told the Kansas City Star.

The states that have fully rejected the request include California, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, North Dakota, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Mississippi and Minnesota.

Others, including Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Connecticut, Missouri, Kansas, Utah and Texas will turn over some of the requested information. Vermont has requested an affidavit from the commission. And Wisconsin has suggested that the commission could purchase the publicly available information, just as political campaigns do. Officials in Washington state said they were reviewing the request.

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JUNE 30, 2017, 2:37 P.M.

REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

## Look at possible conflicts of interest in Trump team's OneWest Bank probes, 2 Democrats urge



Jim Puzzanghera





Protesters gather outside a OneWest Bank in Pasadena in 2014. (Gary Friedman / Los Angeles Times)

Two House Democrats want Congress to look into possible conflicts of interest in the Trump administration's handling of investigations into Pasadena's OneWest Bank — a bank formerly headed by now-Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin.

Reps. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles) and Al Green (D-Texas) said Friday that there was “room for considerable doubt as to the impartiality and the adequacy of this administration's investigations into OneWest” and a subsidiary, Financial Freedom.

Mnuchin was the bank's chairman from 2009 to 2015. President Trump has [nominated Joseph Otting](#), the former chief executive of OneWest, to be comptroller of the currency, a key bank regulator who is part of the Treasury Department.

And Brian Brooks, who was OneWest's vice chairman, [reportedly will be tapped](#) to be deputy Treasury secretary.

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JUNE 30, 2017, 8:46 A.M.

## Watch live: President Trump and South Korea president deliver joint statements at White House

## President Trump Gives Joint Statements with President Moon

JUNE 30, 2017, 8:25 A.M.

LAS VEGAS

# Healthcare issue delivers nothing but pain for Nevada's embattled Sen. Dean Heller

David Montero and [Mark Z. Barabak](#)





Dean Heller is Stephanie Diaz-Gonzalez's problem now.

She's never met Nevada's Republican senator and hadn't had much time to familiarize herself. How could she? The 25-year-old is holding down a full-time job and raising a 7-year-old son, who keeps her busy with soccer games, math homework and those too-often terrifying moments when he can't breathe.

When President Trump was elected and congressional Republicans moved on their top priority to dismantle Obamacare, Diaz-Gonzalez got to know Heller a whole lot better.

Given his back-and-forth on the issue, she came to distrust him.

"I don't know if I could vote for him or support him," the Democrat said. "He seems very contradictory."

Which is why Heller is also Karen Steelmon's problem.

Steelmon, a 48-year-old Republican who grew up in northern Nevada, isn't happy with the lawmaker, who is considered the most vulnerable GOP senator in the country when he comes up for reelection next year.

Obamacare has always been an abomination to Steelmon, an ardent supporter of repeal. To her, deeply held principles are at stake.



“Heller has never acted in favor of what I would consider conservative, constitutional principles as a general rule,” said Steelmon, who would like to see the incumbent taken out in a GOP primary. “And on the very few times he has, it’s always come as a surprise.”

This is Heller’s dilemma.

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JUNE 30, 2017, 3:47 A.M.

REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

## Morning Joe hosts pen op-ed in response to Trump's tweets, while the president tweets a new attack



David Lauter



(Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times)

The co-hosts of MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program hit back at President Trump after his Twitter attack on them.

In an op-ed in Friday's Washington Post, co-anchors Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough wrote that they had criticized Trump, but that "our concerns about his

unmoored behavior go far beyond the personal."

"America's leaders and allies are asking themselves yet again whether this man is fit to be president," they wrote.

"We have our doubts," they added, "but we are both certain that the man is not mentally equipped to continue watching our show."

Trump soon retaliated with yet another tweet.

**Donald J. Trump**  
@realDonaldTrump

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Watched low rated [@Morning\\_Joe](#) for first time in long time.  
FAKE NEWS. He called me to stop a National Enquirer article. I said no! Bad show

8:55 AM - Jun 30, 2017

54,108      19,211      82,848

To which Scarborough responded.

**Joe Scarborough**  
@JoeNBC

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Why do you keep lying about things that are so easily disproven? What is wrong with you? [twitter.com/joebnc/status/...](https://twitter.com/joebnc/status/874111111111111111)

9:03 AM - Jun 30, 2017

3,226      10,426      31,208

The president's Twitter wars have exasperated Republican lawmakers and discouraged even many of his supporters, but he shows no sign of changing his long-set ways.

[READ MORE >](#)

JUNE 29, 2017, 12:04 P.M.

## 'I don't think it's a surprise to anybody that he fights fire with fire': White House spokeswoman defends Trump tweets



## Sarah Sanders Defends Trump's Tweets | Los Angeles Times

JUNE 29, 2017, 1:08 P.M.

REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

# Trump will meet face-to-face with Putin in Germany next week

Brian Bennett and Michael A. Memoli





(Alexei Nikolsky / Associated Press)

President Trump has governed five months under a cloud of questions about his relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, yet the two men will meet next week for the first time, on the sidelines of the G20 summit of world leaders in Hamburg, Germany.

White House officials on Thursday confirmed plans for the private meeting but said no decisions had been made about the topics Trump will raise. So it's unclear whether the men will discuss Russia's election-year cyberattacks that are the focus of criminal and congressional investigations.

"Our relationship with Russia is not different from any other country in terms of us communicating with them, really, what our concerns are, where we see problems in the relationship but also opportunities," said Trump's national security advisor, H.R. McMaster.

McMaster said he expected the two men to have "a broad, wide-ranging discussion" about problems in the relationship but also about where the U.S. and Russia have "common interests."

"There's no specific agenda," McMaster said. "It's really going to be whatever the president wants to talk about," he added.